

Costello School in Gloucester City, New Jersey, as well as its staff and participants. With funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Center program at the Department of Education, the Camden County United Way, and the Bureau of Child Nutrition at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the GOAL Center provides valuable services and opportunities to children and families in my district.

Housed at the Mary Ethel Costello School and also open to students from the St. Mary's Elementary School, the heart of the GOAL Center's programming takes place in the after school hours. Children in grades four through six participate in organized recreation and exercise followed by nutritious snacks which are provided in cooperation with the Bureau of Child Nutrition. The students then receive homework assistance, and take part in other types of tutoring and enrichment activities. The Center also hosts special events, such as field trips to museums, plays, and libraries, movie showings, and game tournaments, as a reward for the hard work the students do during the week.

In addition, the GOAL Center's positive community programming extends beyond the elementary school students. Computer classes and arts enrichment courses, taught by personnel from Camden County College, are offered for families and their children. Camden County College staff also teach free college courses to both parents and high school juniors and seniors in the evenings, and parents can participate in parenting workshops offered in cooperation with the Camden County United Way. These sessions are designed to give information about helping children deal with change, such as starting school, divorce, moving, and other potentially stressful events.

Those who choose to participate in the GOAL Center's programming have demonstrated a clear dedication to improving both themselves and their community, and I believe they deserve recognition. The following students have shown a notable commitment to the goals of the program: Briana Angier, Christopher DiDomenico, Jacob Franchetti, Brianne Goffney, Thomas Hellings, Katie Morgan, William Tozer, Jessica Valcarcel, Ashlee Cruz, Joseph Hamaker, Tamasa Nobles, Kyle Pollandar, Drew Pollitt, Erika Raiken, Matthew Sacilowski, Chelsea Amwake, Alexandria DiDomenico, Lori Mangini, Amanda Martin, A'niah Nobles, Jamie Phillips, Kevin Brown, Zachary Carey, Richard Mercedes, Sydney Durity, Kathleen O'Brien, Laura Casasbuena, Tracey Causey, Charles Clair, Edward Coleman, Kimberly Dieterich, Kevin Dickson, Ashley Egbert, Stevie Gallagher, Nicole Groves, Chelsea Gunning, Kyle Harkins, Damein Hart, Devon Huaca, William Jacobs, Ronnie Joshi, Daniel Karpinski, Lauren Klipp, Paige Kopras, Samantha Mease, Jessica Medina, Kwanna Mosley, Janee Powers, Thomas Raymond, Jennifer Reyes, Alexis Sabatini, Samantha Schultz, Kayla Skotnicki, Xavair Stang, Brianna Bangle, Tina Davis, Ariana Dragone, Joseph Foley, Kyle Gaff, Alex Gallo, CJ Genarie, Thomas Gorman, Brielle Gorski-Schultz, William Gross, Edward Gunning, Mathew Hender, Brittany Higginbotham, Courtney Iacovone, Chelse' Kiefrieder, Zachary Cooper, Harley Marks, Sarah Knipp, Jack Markiewicz, Angelica Medina, Michelle Moler, Thomas Moore Jr., Kevin Mottas, Alexis Naumann, Elizabeth Salvitti, Ryan Schafer, Carla Smith, Devin Vautier, Angelica Wunsch,

Dana Arroliga, Christopher Bittner, Samantha Brucoliere, Chelsea Clair, Denise Duterich, Randy Forte, Michael Gorman, Danielle Groves, Jimmy Baehr, Devin Jaskulski, Brian Donaghy, Deanne Cobb, Steven Karpinski, Hyeji Lee, Jennifer Liebrand, Melissa Miloshevsky, Ryan Moore, Robert Mortimer, Markita Nelson, Carlos Nieves, Jessy Perez, Scott Scmolia, Corey Scott, Gabrielle Spagnolia, Marissa Wood, Destiney Woodward, Alicia Yourison, Steven Kumpf, Andrew Morgan, Andira Morgan, Joseph Cipriani, Jordan Brady, Donna Weatherly, Jessica Meller, Regina Corvino, Jessica Finch, Racheal Finch, and Raquel Cannon.

Similarly, the following staff deserve recognition for the time and energy they have put into making the Center a success: Superintendent Mary Stansky, Business Administrator James Devereaux, Mary Ethel Costello School Principal Nancy Thomas and Assistant Principal William Marble, Director of Curriculum Sue McComb, GOAL Center Coordinator Catherine George, Public Information Officer Lynda Lathrop, Teaching Staff Members Lisa Amrosino, Patricia Duer, Gina Shank, Carl Kohler, William Kohler, Darcy Fox-Fuchs, Marge Dantonio, Marilyn Holmes, Dolores Militti, Cindy Kumpel, Janeen Thomas, Kathleen Davi, Kate Narducci, Guy Groff, Christie Murray, Lorri Stasium, Christine Wilson, Betty Averell, Craig Reinhart, Ellen Richards, Renee Robson, Ellen Conway, Mary Ann Woodrubb, and Don Dantonio, and Board of Education Members Judith A. Alberti, Robert H. Bennett, Sr., Sandra Lynch-Cowgill, Joanne Gurick, Patrick Healey, Edward Hubbs, Lousia Llewellyn, Bruce Marks, Danny O'Brien, Jr., and William Lunemann.

The GOAL Center is truly a complete program in that it assists students in the crucial areas of health, nutrition, and academic achievement. It also helps to foster a desire for life-long learning, and serves as a valuable resource for families and adults seeking development opportunities. I congratulate all the current staff and students on the hard work they put into the program, and wish them and the Center continued success in the future.

HONORING RYAN JERABEK

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, every now and then, I hear someone say that America lacks heroes—those great men and women amongst us who we can use to inspire and teach our young people. In my view, the problem is that too many people look to the playing fields or the big screen for their heroes. But all of us here today know better—because we are here to remember and honor one of our real heroes; an American who we are rightly very proud of, and whom we miss very much, Ryan Jerabek.

Now, we all know that our work in Iraq is far from over. There are many challenges ahead and, sadly, there will likely be some more dark days ahead as well. But we also know there will be brighter days ahead too, more and more of them, as freedom's sunlight chases away the shadows of tyranny. That's what Ryan helped to do—bring sunlight to the shadows.

What our servicemen and women are accomplishing is extraordinary—by any measure and compared to any mission in modern history. Sadly, their courage can be measured by the casualties—Ryan, Jesse Thiry of Casco, Warren Hansen of Clintonville, Stephen Martin of Rhinelander, Nichole Frye of Lena and others.

But on this day, let's also measure their courage by how they've changed Iraq. Just a year and a half after chasing Saddam from power, Iraq is on the path to full sovereignty and moving toward free elections. When our soldiers first reached Iraq, they found chaos and they found evil. As USAID has reported, Iraq has 270 mass graves holding perhaps 400,000 bodies—people tortured for their beliefs, and killed for their ethnicity.

Ryan and others fought, and rebuilt, and protected, and liberated—and the results have been historic. They've helped rebuild 240 hospitals, 1,200 clinics, 2,300 schools. They've distributed 1.5 million student school kits and 9 million textbooks. They've immunized over 5 million Iraqi children. They've established 16 governing councils, over 90 district councils and nearly 200 community councils.

In short, Ryan was doing a good thing—no, he was doing a great thing. And the ceremony honoring Ryan this weekend in Wisconsin is just one small sign that all of us recognize it.

Ryan used to say that he wanted to be a teacher—he wanted to teach others and shape lives. Well, he did. His life, his work, his sacrifice have taught us all so very much. We will never, ever forget him. We are in awe of his service and all that he accomplished in his tragically short life.

Ryan, you are our hero—a real hero.

NATIONAL ALL SCHEDULES PRESCRIPTION ELECTRONIC REPORTING ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3015, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2003. As a cosponsor of H.R. 3015, I recognize that this bill represents an important step in curbing the abuse of prescription drugs.

According to the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), an estimated 9 million people aged 12 and older used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in 1999. Sadly the NIDA predicts that number to be on the rise. This problem is compounded by the fact that many doctors have a hard time discussing this matter with their patients. In a survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 46 percent of physicians reported they find it difficult to talk with their patients about abusing prescription drugs.

The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2003 provides grants to establish state-run programs for prescription monitoring that will be administered and coordinated at the Federal level. This will allow physicians to monitor whether their patients have been abusing addictive drugs or acquiring addictive drugs for others, even if a

patient has received prescriptions in other states. Additionally, this bill has the potential to significantly cut down on prescription drug abuse and to help physicians prescribe addictive medications to patients who really need them without fear that the patient will abuse the drug.

Since my home state of Illinois instituted the Illinois Triplicate Prescription Control Program in 1961, the program has been successful in combating prescription drug abuse back home. Now it is time to build on that success by creating a federal network so that state programs can be coordinated nationally.

Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for this Congress to recognize that the abuse of prescription drugs is a serious problem in this country. The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2003 is a large part of the solution.

PANCREATIC ISLET CELL TRANSPLANTATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3858, the Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act. As a cosponsor of H.R. 3858, I recognize that this bill will aid the medical community as it learns more about the potential of islet cell transplantation. More importantly, it will help increase the supply of pancreata that can be used for islet transplantation, while also better coordinating the efforts of those involved in the process. Innovations in this field can help people suffering from Type I diabetes to live without daily injections of insulin.

According to the American Diabetes Association, there are 18.2 million diabetics in America, a figure that accounts for 6.3 percent of our population. The Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act is a strong step forward on the path to significantly improving the quality of life for these Americans.

Individuals with Type I diabetes are dependent on insulin injections because their own immune systems destroy the islet beta cells that create insulin. Islet transplantation involves taking islet cells from a donor pancreas and implanting them into a recipient where the beta cells from the islets begin to make and release insulin. The goal is to eventually be able to infuse enough islets so that diabetics can control their glucose levels without needing painful insulin injections.

By ensuring the certification or recertification of islet transplantations and research under the Public Health Service Act, this bill will aid in further developing this medical breakthrough. This bill will break down barriers that now stand in the way of this treatment. Also, by mandating an annual assessment on pancreatic islet cell transplantation, we can guarantee that this procedure and the Americans who need it are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, when a moment is at hand where we can improve the health of the citizens of our great country, it is incumbent upon us to do so. The Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2004 presents us with precisely one of those moments. I commend the

gentleman from Washington for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

EXCESSIVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on the two-year anniversary of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, it is worth noting that this country has seen an increase in consumer and investor confidence, and a significant market recovery. Corporate scandals and plunging stock prices forced Congress to pass the most sweeping regulation of corporate activity since the 1930s, when the SEC was created.

Many positive developments have resulted from the passage of Sarbanes-Oxley, however more can be done. I fear that we have not seen the last of the corporate abuse exhibited by the Enrons and Worldcoms of the world, especially with regard to the raiding of pension funds.

I am concerned about a growing number of corporate executives in America who are less than fully accountable to their shareholders or employees. Some continue to demand and receive outrageous salaries and perks while their companies flounder. In some cases, these executives face civil and criminal investigations for fraud and corruption.

The current environment under which Corporate America pays its executives allows for minimal, if any, input by the shareholders. Oftentimes their will is often suppressed, as was the case with Alcoa Inc. in 2003 when the board of directors rejected a proposal approved by the majority of shareholders that urged the board of directors to seek shareholder approval for future severance agreements with senior executives. Boards of directors continue to reward their executives with outrageous retirement packages regardless of the company's performance. Not only is the discrepancy between pay and performance a problem, but the fact that the disclosure to shareholders comes months after the payments is also troubling.

One of the most disturbing facts of these misguided or criminal actions by corporate leaders is that their employees see their hard-earned profit sharing plans disappear. Yet, these corporate 'rock stars' ride off with their guaranteed benefits package intact, while the workers and shareholders take it on the chin. Their investments and savings, tied to corporate growth and built up over the years, have vanished. Plans of retirement are halted, either permanently or indefinitely; and many workers find themselves forced to work in their golden years.

Today, I have introduced legislation to require an advance disclosure to a company's shareholders upon the creation or increase in special retirement plans for executives. This could bring desperately needed transparency to the boardroom. Under current law, benefits payable under these plans are not considered reportable compensation, which is why this disclosure is necessary. This would allow shareholders to be proactive in determining whether or not their CEO deserves the millions he or she is getting paid.

I understand that this is a departure from the typical form of disclosure, however I believe the current environment under which Corporate America operates needs to change. We must improve investor confidence, and advance disclosure of excessive corporate compensation will move us in that direction.

REASSESSING FOOD LAWS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue facing the next Congress. Since enactment of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990, obesity rates in America have soared, including among children.

According to a recent briefing provided by the Institute of Food Technologists, "the most recent data from NHANES (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey) in 2002, 65 percent of Americans were overweight or obese, 30 percent were obese and 4.9 percent were extremely obese. Over 400,000 individuals die each year due to poor diet and physical inactivity. For the first time in 100 years, children face shorter life spans than their parents, as the obesity rate for children has doubled since 1980. The total estimated direct and indirect costs of obesity in the U.S. exceed \$117 billion annually. Less than 1/3 of adults engage in the recommended amounts of physical activity. In fact, more than 25 percent of Americans report no leisure time activity at all."

While evidence suggests that the increase in obesity rates is due primarily to a decline in physical activity rather than an increase in caloric consumption, the problem will not be solved by increased physical activity alone. For the sake of public health, many Americans must modify both their diets and physical activity practices.

We in Congress should examine whether our current food labeling laws are providing for the nutrition information, including claims regarding the health effects and nutritional composition of foods, that consumers need. A realistic appraisal of our food labeling law provides a mixed review:

The law effectively prohibits false or misleading nutrition information. Uniform food labeling laws facilitate consumer education and the efficient flow of commerce.

The Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) and its implementing regulations took a prescriptive approach that emphasized fat, which effectively de-emphasized the very important consideration of total calories in a food. Though well intentioned, this approach may have exacerbated dietary problems.

The highly prescriptive approach of the NLEA, combined with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) cumbersome approval process, have resulted in the agency often standing in the way of providing truthful, non-misleading information to consumers. FDA has lost every major First Amendment case regarding implementation of the NLEA. In the landmark decision, *Pearson v. Shalala*, 164 F.3d 650 (D.C. Cir. 1999), reh'g, en banc, denied, 172 F.3d 72 (D.C. Cir. 1999), the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals even characterized